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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/712,550

11/13/2003

Binh T. Nguyen

29757/P-758

9163

4743 7590 07/18/2007
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EXAMINER

LEIVA, FRANK M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/712,550

Applicant(s)

NGUYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Frank M. Leiva

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 23-28 and 42-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 23-28 and 42-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 23-28 and 42-46 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/02/2004; 4/25/2005; 6/16/2006</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, [claims 1-5, 23-28, and 42-46] in the reply filed on 24 April 2007 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 23-28 and 42-46 are objected to because of the following informalities: the claims are dependent on non-elected claims withdrawn from consideration, for the purpose of examination the examiner will refer to them as dependent on claim 1. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5, 23-28, and 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jordan et al (US 2004/0053681 B1) herein after Jordan.

5. **Regarding claims 1, 23-26, and 42-46;** Jordan discloses:
 - a. A server computer on a server network comprising a single-write data storage (disk), with an operational event controller, with all the parts of a computer, such as processor, memory, magnetic disk, CD, disk drive, where in a network of computers communicate operational event data upon requests, (Fig 4 and claim 1).
 - b. A plurality of gaming apparatuses operatively coupled to said network, (Fig 4).
 - c. The gaming devices comprising a display unit, ticket printer, value input device, a controller, said controller capable of running the game display and peripherals, (¶0111).
 - d. Said controller able to communicate event data to said operational controller, data comprising one or more of: accounting data, cashless data, security data, player-tracking data, and maintenance data, (Fig 4 and ¶0097).
 - e. Said controller programmed to cause said ticket printer to issue a ticket voucher, (¶0060).
6. **Regarding claim 2;** Jordan discloses wherein said controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to a particular server computer, (¶0047).
7. **Regarding claim 3;** Jordan discloses a gaming system comprising a plurality of said network computers operatively coupled to said server computer and each disposed in a different geographic location, wherein: said operational event controller is programmed to communicate said operational event data to an operational event controller of at least one of said plurality, of network computers, and said operational event controller is programmed receive operational event data from an operational event controller of at least one of said plurality of network computers, (¶0023).
8. **Regarding claim 5;** Jordan discloses wherein said gaming system comprises a casino gaming system, (¶0085).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordan.

11. **Regarding claim 4;** Jordan discloses all the limitations recited in claim 1 from which claim 4 depend on, although Jordan is silent about the system being applied to government sponsored gaming devices, it is well known in the art to apply all the teachings of gaming devices whether they are private or State funded gaming establishment. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement the teachings of Jordan in any Government sponsored establishment to gain the same advantages as does any regular casino in the country.

Citation of Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schineier et al (US 6,099,408), networked games. Alcorn et al (US 5,643,086), networked games. Hafezi (US 2002/0025850 A1), ticket voucher printing. Acres et al (US 5,655,961), networked player tracking system. Crumby (US 6,875,110 B1), multi-system gaming terminal.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank M. Leiva whose telephone number is (571) 272-2460. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30am - 5:pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert E. Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FML

07/10/2007


Robert E Pezzuto
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3714